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DD/S&T# 3547-72

27 December 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Cover Letter to NIOC for Prospectus

REFERENCE : Draft Letter from Paul V. Walsh dtd 19 Dec 72
Subj: Proposed Establishment of a National
Intelligence Operations Center (NIOC)

1. This note is in response to your request for an additional paragraph to include in Paul Walsh's memorandum conveying the NIOC for prospectus to the DCI. My suggestion is to delete the last line of paragraph 1 and pick up with a new paragraph 2 as follows:

"We have generally agreed on a prospectus for such a center (Attachment 1). Included in this prospective are provisions for staffing the NIOC with knowledgeable representatives of each collection category. The purpose of these collection category representatives is to ensure a close coupling between current intelligence analysis and production and the collection resources feeding that process. While we all agree on the need for providing direct guidance from the NIOC to collection managers, there are differing views on the tactics of achieving this objective. The draft prospectus takes a first step in that it calls for the NIOC to issue collection guidance under selected circumstances. The DD/S&T believes we should be more aggressive on this issue and require the NIOC to formulate regular collection guidance on intelligence problems. Specifically the DD/S&T would prefer to see paragraph 10b (viii) worded as follows:

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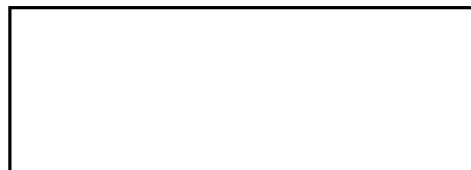
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'In support of these objectives, to provide a centralized facility to act as the focal point for the issuance of current intelligence collection guidance to all major collection systems. In crisis situations NIOC requirements will be given precedence by collection managers as necessary to meet the immediate requirements of the national security authorities.'

The DD/S&T is preparing a separate memorandum for you on this issue."

2. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this issue further.



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Deputy Director of Special Projects

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